

MAY 2009 REPORT



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION



Water Song, Mina Darham, Age 10  
"River of Words" Art Contest

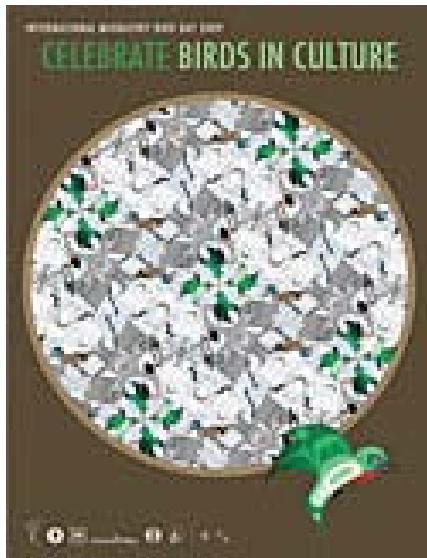
**ARIZONA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

The 2009 Arizona Floodplain Management Association Conference primarily focused upon stormwater management topics in the Sierra Vista area. Numerous Upper San Pedro Partnership members were guest speakers including:

- ◆ Holly Richter, The Nature Conservancy: The Upper San Pedro Water District: Comprehensive Water Management Planning.
- ◆ Tom Runyon, Fort Huachuca: The San Pedro Basin and Fort Huachuca: Balancing Human and Ecosystem Water Needs.
- ◆ Karen Riggs, Cochise County and Alan Humphrey, City of Sierra Vista: Stormwater Management in Sierra Vista and the Upper San Pedro River Watershed.
- ◆ Karen Riggs, Cochise County: Missing DFIRM Elevation Reference Marks: What Happened To Them and How Do We Get Them Back?
- ◆ Eve Halper, Bureau of Reclamation: Rainwater Harvesting Research in the Upper San Pedro Partnership.
- ◆ Bruce Gungle, U.S. Geological Survey: Section 321 Report on Sustainability.

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## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2009



International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is an annual celebration of migratory birds that includes festivals, bird walks and other activities. Its purpose is to increase awareness of migratory birds and the need for their conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are among the program's sponsors. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Audubon Society are program partners. This year's theme is "Celebrate Birds in Culture" This theme recognizes the importance that birds play in art, myths, legends, and ceremonies. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area provides essential habitat for over 400 species of breeding and migratory birds.

## WATER WISE XERISCAPE TOUR

Water Wise held its spring xeriscape tour that consisted of colorful, wildlife-friendly, low-water use landscapes. Docents were available at each stop to answer questions. Low-water use plant lists were distributed. This program is made possible, in part, by the support of the Upper San Pedro Partnership and its member agencies.



### **FUNDING**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has grant opportunities available through its Arizona Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Sherry Barrett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, reminded the Partnership Advisory Commission members of these opportunities. The type of projects that have been previously funded through this program include:

- ◆ Fencing Streams and Wetlands.
- ◆ Planting Native Vegetation.
- ◆ Protecting Wetland and Riparian Habitats.
- ◆ Eradication of Invasive Weeds.
- ◆ Closing Unauthorized Roads and Trails.
- ◆ Installing Water Development for Wildlife and Livestock.



Remembered Water  
Eunsil Chio, Age 17  
River of Words Art Contest



## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

### **HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Hereford Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) is presently assisting a land owner with the diversion of stormwater runoff from a roadway into a large, dirt livestock tank. This project will reduce flooding, erosion and sedimentation and provide water for livestock. Existing sedimentation within the stock tank will be removed and the fill will be donated or sold as topsoil. Also, the NRCD continues working with landowners on grassland restoration projects. Native grasslands recharge stormwater runoff by slowing runoff and percolating water into the soil via the root systems. Grasses also filter pollutants from the runoff before it enters the drainages and ultimately, the San Pedro River.



### **LOCAL AUTHORITY: SAN PEDRO WATER DISTRICT ORGANIZING BOARD MAY MEETINGS**

The Organizing Board of the Upper San Pedro Water District reviewed its Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Plan. The Draft includes a “Summary of the Comprehensive Water Resources Action Plan” and a “Comprehensive Ten-Year Water Resources Action Plan for Review and Consideration by the Public”. The Ten-Year Water Resources Action Plan includes a Conservation Action element, a Recharge Action element, an Augmentation Action element, a Create An Augmentation Fund element, a Reuse Action element and a Monitoring Action element.



### **COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is prioritizing Action Items within the Partnership’s Strategic Plan that the Executive Committee will commit to fulfilling. Holly Richter, ExCom Chair, is revising a draft policy that will govern the submission of grant proposals by Partnership members who are listing the Partnership as a partner on the application or are expecting the Partnership to contribute to any funding match that is required. This draft will be redistributed to the Executive Committee at the next meeting for review and possible approval.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Julie Stromberg and Melanie Tluczek, Arizona State University, presented a lecture on Historic Changes in Riparian Vegetation: Riparian Forest Expansion Following Extreme Disturbance to the Technical Committee. Julie Stromberg’s and Melanie Tluczek’s research indicates that riparian vegetation along the San Pedro River will likely follow a post-disturbance successional process. This process will cause the Cottonwood and Willow trees to diminish and Mesquite and Sacaton to proliferate. Nick Peretti, U.S.G.S., presented information on Source Water Identification at Murray Springs to the Technical Committee. Nick Peretti’s research concluded that, as is common in much of the wastewater in the United States, numerous organic chemical compounds were present within the water tested at Murray Springs. These compounds include pharmaceutical drugs, detergents and insecticides.

*All Things Arise From the Principle of Water- Virtuvius*

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